

**Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers**  
**Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security**  
**Markup**

**May 16, 2023**

*As prepared for delivery*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This morning the Subcommittee continues our work to improve people's lives by making energy more affordable and strengthening American energy security.

In order to achieve this, it is critical that the U.S. maintain a strong energy mix.

That is how we win the future with clean, reliable, and affordable energy to power our way of life, keep the lights on, build stronger communities, and keep our economies going....

...and a key part of that energy mix must be nuclear.

American leadership in nuclear energy and nuclear technology is critical to our economic and national security.

Which is why one of the most urgent security threats America faces right now

is our dangerous reliance on Russia's supply of nuclear fuels for our nuclear fleet...

This threat has intensified as a result of the war in Ukraine.

American nuclear fuel infrastructure has been stunted by policies that Russia has exploited by flooding the U.S. market with its cheaper fuel....

...which today, accounts for more than 20 percent of nuclear fuels for American reactors.

Last year alone, our industry paid over \$850 million to Russia's state-owned nuclear energy corporation, Rosatom [*pronounced ROSS – ATOM*] and its fuel subsidiaries.

That number could be even higher this year... and these resources are no doubt going towards funding Putin's war efforts in Ukraine.

Further, we've seen how Putin has weaponized Europe's reliance on Russian natural gas... there's no reason to believe they wouldn't do the same with our nuclear fuel supply, if they saw an opportunity.

Rosatom has also supported China's nuclear energy ambitions.

The risks of continuing this dependence on Russia for our nuclear fuels are simply too great.

That's why I am leading H.R. 1042, the Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act, along with Mr. Latta...

...which bans fuel imports from Russia and sends a strong signal to the market that will help restore American nuclear leadership and fuel infrastructure.

We will also be discussing several other important bills today, including

H.R. 3277, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act...

...which Mr. Walberg and Ms. Blunt Rochester are leading to continue the Committee's bipartisan focus on protecting our critical energy infrastructure.

This bill, which we passed through the House last Congress, assures that DOE's important cyber security and emergency functions are led by a Senate-confirmed assistant secretary.

We will also be considering H.R. 1640, the "Save our Gas Stoves Act," led by Representative Lesko...

...to prevent DOE from banning gas stoves.

This ban is just the latest attempt by the Biden Administration to use the federal government's power to dictate every aspect of our lives...

...from what kind of car we can drive...

...how we wash our clothes...

....and how we heat our homes and businesses...

...to now, how Americans are allowed to cook food for our families by trying to ban gas stoves.

Ultimately, these bans will only force higher costs on hardworking families and disproportionately harm the most vulnerable communities.

I look forward to discussing these solutions in greater detail.

I yield back.